

MINUTES
Judicial Education Committee Meeting
National City Center - 12th Floor Court of Appeals Conference Room "A"
May 18, 2007 1:00-3:30 p.m.

Members present: Jane Spencer Craney, Darrin Dolehanty, Bob Freese, Sherry Biddinger Gregg, Barb Harcourt (chair), John Rader, Jack Tandy.

Staff present: Cathy Springer, Jane Seigel, Vicki Davis, Anne Jordan.

- 1. Approval of minutes from March meeting.** The minutes were approved as presented.
- 2. Review Spring Judicial College.**
 - a. Evaluation of courses. All the courses received high evaluations. Committee members were especially pleased with the all-day sessions on Thursday
 - b. Attendance. Attendance was very good this year, with few no-shows. There were problems with the hotel, since many couldn't check in until after 5 pm and the ISBA Bar reception was at 5:30. This hotel has a 4 pm check-in. Center staff said they would see if the hotel could offer an earlier check-in.
- 3. Plans for Judicial Conference - September 19-21 – Fort Wayne.**
 - a. Concurrent Sessions. All break-out sessions are 90 minutes. So far, two are repeat sessions—Family Law and Criminal Law updates. Tentative topics include mental health, U.S. Military Personnel, and Law in Indiana History. Other topics suggested by the committee include disaster planning, guardianship of older adults, and sex offenders.
 - b. Plenary Sessions. Staff has contacted the Chief Justice to see if there is someone he wants to invite to present a keynote. Justice Sullivan recommended Charles Schudson, a former judge out of Wisconsin, as a possible speaker.
 - c. Other Activities. The Ft. Wayne Bar Association is hosting an event on Thursday evening.
- 4. Winter Conference - December 7.** Topics being considered: effective sentencing; security/disaster planning; living and working in stressful times; cultural/fairness issues. The committee agreed to have staff invite Mark Carey to speak about effective sentencing. If he is unavailable, staff will develop a proposal on disaster planning (contingent upon any disaster planning workshops at the September conference).
- 5. Additional Conferences Scheduled for 2007.**
 - a. Graduate Program – June 3-8. (Second year of 2-year program). A group is returning for their second year of this two-year program.
 - b. Juvenile Court Judges Annual Meeting - June 21-22. This year is the conference is being held at the Fourwinds Resort in Bloomington. The focus is on the importance of educational success of children in care.
 - c. City and Town Court Judges Annual Meeting - October 11-12. This is not a joint conference in 2007. It is being held at the Hilton North Hotel.
 - d. Domestic Relations Workshop - November 15-16. This will be held at the Marriott North Hotel. Staff is exploring the topic of 'differentiating types of domestic violence.'

- e. Indiana Summit on Children - December 14. As a result of two new Court Improvement Program grants, the Center is sponsoring a Summit on Children. Teams from each county made up of child welfare stakeholders, chosen by the juvenile judge, will be invited to participate.

6. Additional items for discussion.

- a. Committee "wish-list."
 - 1. *Training for Court Staff.* Jane reported that the budget has been approved to hire an additional staff person to handle court staff training.
 - 2. *Distance learning.* The committee agreed to conduct the July meeting of the Education Committee via WebX.
 - 3. *More theoretical topics.* A suggestion was made to offer more sessions or seminars similar to some of the more theoretical topics offered at the Graduate program.
 - 4. *Judicial Wellness.* Staff suggested doing a Health fair in 2008, when we are back in Indianapolis.
 - 5. *Faculty Development.* Staff noted that whenever it has been offered, the attendance is low. It may be better to continue sending judges interested in teaching to the NJC programs.
 - 6. *Faculty evaluation, faculty advisors.* How much feedback do we give our faculty, and how much do they want? Should education committee members act as faculty advisors, assisting in the development, observation, and evaluation of courses? The committee discussed the possibility of bringing in a third party independent person, like Louis Phillips, to evaluate faculty and offer suggestions.
 - 7. *Foreign language.* The Court is in partnership with Ivy Tech to offer Spanish classes. Members of the committee noted it can be difficult to find enough people to send, and forming teams with other counties is a logistics problem.
 - 8. *Observation of other court practices.* This would be invaluable for new judges.
 - 9. *Sabbatical.* A suggestion was offered to explore the concept of allowing trial court judges to take sabbaticals, provided the purpose is for judicial education and/or mental health. Grant funding would be essential. Requirements to qualify must be spelled out.
- b. 2006 Curriculum Grid and Percentage Goals. Discussion on this will be held until the July meeting.
- c. Other items. The Supreme Court agencies are moving on January 1, 2007, to 30 S. Meridian.

- 7. Next Meeting Date -** (Via Conference Call - possibly "Web X") - Friday, July 20, 1:00 – 3:30 p.m. Judge Harcourt agreed to help coordinate.

Respectfully Submitted.
Anne Jordan, Program Attorney